

Questions submitted to the presenter in advance – and the presenter’s answers:

1. If I'm looking for a specific demographic, how do I know what survey it might be in, if any? It feels like looking for a needle in a haystack.

I agree. Our site is filled with a wealth of information. We have a new tool called the Census Survey Explorer. This tool allows you to either type in a topic or use the drop-down boxes to refine your search to only see those surveys that are specific to your selections available. I will reference this tool in my presentation. Link for this tool is [Census Survey Explorer \(beta\)](#)

2. What are the best practices for navigating the census data and building reports?

When navigating any of our tools, it is helpful to have three items in mind when doing a search. The year of the data, the geography, and the topic of interest. This will help you to refine your search and be able to pull reports as needed. The Census Business Builder shows data in a report layout that makes it easier to see the wealth of data available in this tool including not only economic related data but also the American Community Survey data as part of the report.

The data.census.gov tool has data profiles available that summarize information for a given location. Each of the profiles relates to something different. One may be social characteristics and one may be demographic, etc. I believe there are 5 profiles. Data results can also be mapped in the tool if that is the preference, however, it would be on a specific variable.

3. Is there any tool on data.census.gov that is comparable to the defunct American Fact Finder?

Comparable would be the data.census.gov tool. This tool has much of the data that the AFF had once upon a time. You are able to access decennial, economic, and ACS data through the tool. Geography levels are similar and you will be able to map your results. However, you are not able to print the maps. You can send the link from the page to yourself and print from an email or similar. You will be receiving a demo and hands-on time with this tool later in the year from my colleague.

4. How could I find a PDF version of the volumes of the 1980 Population Census on census.gov? I have found others, but not that one. Thank you!

I am not aware of any 1980 PDF versions available. Many years ago, I worked with the Census Depository Library Program. They may have these older versions. If not, here is the link to the older files [Index of / \(census.gov\)](#). I hope these will be helpful to you. Also consider the Census Bureau Library as another resource.

5. The Census Bureau was an early adopter of CD-ROMs for information dissemination. Has the data from those disks been migrated to the Census website or the FTP site? Also, what is the difference between those two sites?

The Census has much of their older data on the FTP download site at www2.census.gov. Here you will find the index of resources available. When the Census Bureau site went live, I want to say in the early 90's, they loaded a good deal of data on line to make it free to the public. But results were not able to be manipulated to meet customers needs. Now we have over 30 tools available to help you find what you desire. The top tools recommended are quickfacts, data.census.gov and the census business builder. There are many more available but not at the level of geography available in these tools. If you are looking for GIS or shapefile related check out the TIGERWeb tool for that amount of detail.

6. Will there be any paper reports issued for the 2020 Decennial Census? For instance, summary of the U.S. or individual reports for the states or reports on ethnicity/race?

To my knowledge at this time there are no plans for printed materials. They will be updating several tools with data from the 2020 Census such as the data.census.gov. We get updates every couple of weeks. I will be on the lookout for any updates on printed materials.